

DECISION SUMMARY

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Based on site history and results of environmental investigations, the Air Force proposes no further action at Site 19 at Beale Air Force Base (AFB), California. This decision document presents the Site 19 characterization data to support the no-further-action decision for soils at Site 19.

In addition to presenting site background and history (Section 1.0) and the results of previous investigations (Section 2.0), this document presents the results of a human health and ecological risk screening assessment (Section 3.0). The 2001 field characterization effort at Site 19 is documented in Appendix A.

1.1 Site Name, Location, and Description

Site 19 consists of the former Emergency Holding Basin (EHB), located west of the intersection of C and 11th Streets, the Photographic Waste Treatment Plant (PWTP), located along J Street between Gavin Mandery Drive and the Wheatland Gate, and the 2.3-mile photowaste pipeline (Figures 1-1 and 1-2). The Site 19 site boundary at the EHB area was revised in 2003. The EHB area is located within the site boundary of Site 39. Figure 1-2 shows the historical facility layout of the EHB, PWTP, and the photowaste pipeline. The EHB was circular, approximately 150 feet in diameter, surrounded by fencing and constructed with concrete sides and a compacted clay bottom. The basin was used intermittently to contain photograph processing laboratory waste discharges diverted from a concrete transfer pump pit (TPP) whenever the amount of photographic waste discharged exceeded the capacity of the TPP.

The PWTP consisted of a blending basin, neutralizer basin, clarifier, sludge de-watering beds, a filter pump pit, and an injection pump pit.

In 1997, the entire photographic waste collection and treatment system was removed, and the area was backfilled with clean soil. The photowaste pipeline was cleaned and grouted in place (Laguna Construction Company, 1997).

1.1.1 Adjacent Land Uses

The primary land use surrounding Beale AFB is agricultural; 85% of the surrounding land is designated as an Exclusive Agricultural Zone. Land use at Site 19 is designated for commercial/industrial use in accordance with the *Beale AFB General Plan* (Higginbotham/Briggs, 1998).

1.1.2 Nearby Population

Beale AFB is located in a sparsely populated area approximately 10 miles east of Marysville, California, and 45 miles north of Sacramento, California. The Beale AFB employees, residents in military housing, and residents in the housing east of Beale AFB are the nearest populations. On-base residential areas exist approximately 3 miles from Site 19.

1.1.3 Surface and Groundwater Resources

Surface water at Site 19 flows from the EHB area to the southwest where it is intercepted by a drainage ditch that lies approximately 50 feet south of the EHB. The drainage ditch flows into Hutchinson Creek, which lies approximately 1,200 feet west of the EHB. The drainage ditch carries seasonal flows and is dry in the summer months (Law Environmental, Inc., 1997).

At Site 19, the groundwater flows in a southwest direction (URS, 2003). The Site 19 area groundwater monitoring wells and approximate flow direction are shown on Figure 1-1.

1.1.4 Surface and Subsurface Features

In 1997, a combined engineering evaluation/cost analysis (EE/CA) and interim removal action (IRA) project was performed. Under the IRA, contaminated soil was excavated, and the components of the photographic waste collection and treatment system were removed. The 2.3-mile-long pipeline was cleaned and pressure-grouted in place.

Currently, Site 19 consists of an open grassland field with revegetated soil and a tributary to Hutchinson Creek in the area west of the intersection of C and 11th Streets. The area of the former PWTP currently consists of an open grassland field with revegetated soil.

1.2 Site History and Enforcement Activities

1.2.1 Site History and Operations

Site 19 is the former location of the EHB, PWTP, and the conveyance pipeline. The EHB was located west of C Street across from the photographic processing center located in Air Combat Command Building 2145. The EHB was a 150-foot-diameter basin constructed with a bentonite clay floor extending to approximately 4 feet below ground surface (bgs). The basin, constructed in 1967, was part of the PWTP processing system. The basin was designed to temporarily contain photographic wastewater. Wastewater generated in Building 2145 was pumped through the 2.3-mile-long pipeline to the PWTP. If the PWTP was inoperative or if the wastewater flow exceeded the capacity of the pipeline, the wastewater was then diverted to the EHB for temporary containment. Once the PWTP was functioning at normal capacity, the EHB was drained into a sump through a connecting pipe (Law Environmental, Inc., 1997).

In 1987, the California Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) sampled basin soils from the EHB. Cleanup of the EHB was required pursuant to the Toxic Pits Cleanup Act (TPCA) based on the analytical results from the soil samples. A summary of previous field investigations performed at Site 19 is provided in Table 1-1.

A hydrogeological assessment report for the EHB was submitted in November 1991. Based on the results of this assessment, Beale AFB was notified by the California RWQCB that all requirements of the TPCA had been met; removal from the TPCA facilities list was recommended (Law Environmental, Inc., 1997).

The 1997 EE/CA and IRA addressed contaminated soil at Site 19. The IRA included excavation and off-site disposal of contaminated soil and removal of components of the photographic waste collection and treatment system facility with the exception of the 2.3-mile-long pipeline which was cleaned and pressure-grouted in place. The EE/CA and IRA were approved by the California Department of Toxic Substance Control (DTSC), the Central Valley RWQCB, the Air Force